



The Highlands Record

Building the Vision



Construction crews are in the process of remodeling and rehabilitating the future site of the NPS Atlantic Learning Center(ALC). The ALC will provide lab and classroom space for visiting researchers and students.

Progress in Motion

“Things are happening at the Highlands Center; it’s amazing how much we’re really moving forward with our long term plans,” said an excited Maria Burks, Superintendent of Cape Cod National Seashore, “Just look around and you can see progress in motion.”

Upon closer inspection, Burks’ words ring true. Walking the grounds at the Highlands Center, it is easy to see what has been done this past winter and spring to spruce up the former military base, whose earliest buildings date back to the Cold War, and it is not hard to envision the unique facility that is taking shape.

Over the previous few months, as winter has reluctantly released its grip on New England, the Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore has sprung to life. Bustling with activity, it has played host to construction projects, clean-ups and tours. “So much has been going on,” explains Adele Fleet Bacow, President of Community Partners Consultants, Inc., and a consultant on the Highlands Center project. “We are seeing tangible signs of success - the new overlook, the rehabilitation of the two buildings, and enthusiastic responses of organizations wanting to play a part in the Highlands Center.”

Continued on page 2

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Newsletter of the
Highlands Center at
Cape Cod National Seashore

In This Issue:

progress

- **Moving Forward:
Prospective Partners Tour
and Submit Proposals**
- **Looking Over the Edge:
New Overlook Atop the
Bluffs of Truro**

Creating New Foundations

Continued from page 1

Tours for Potential Partners Build Project Understanding

On an uncharacteristically beautiful day in early April, a group of 31 visionary individuals from 16 different non-profit and governmental organizations stepped onto the grounds of the Highlands Center for a journey into the imagination. "A tour of the grounds became a tour of possibilities," explained Lauren McKean, National Park Service (NPS) Highlands Center Project Manager. "Making the Highlands Center a reality involves building community interest, tackling the difficult challenges and always staying focused."



(From left) Bacow, Superintendent Maria Burks, and Project Manager Lauren McKean speak to prospective partners on the newly constructed overlook platform.

We encourage people to imagine what is possible here." The tours were part of the educational outreach to potential lessees who might express an interest in the *Request for Proposals (RFP) for Program Partners* and a *Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Management Partner*.

Architects and engineers also made a site visit on behalf of the potential partners. The tour provided more in-depth information on the condition of available buildings for programmatic uses consistent with the Highlands Center mission.



Builders assess the fruit of their labors at the NPS Atlantic Learning Center.

A View from the Edge

A panoramic view of the North Atlantic can now be seen from the recently completed ocean overlook platform (pictured left). The newly finished platform was constructed by the Cape Cod National Seashore maintenance department and overlooks Truro's ocean beaches from high atop the bluffs.

Below: Recent aerial photo of the Highlands Center and Atlantic Ocean taken by remote controlled airplane.



NPS Atlantic Learning Center Construction Work-in-Progress

The trucks are rolling in and extension cords are running in every direction. The whirring of machines, the pounding of hammers, and other sights and sounds of people at work are evident. Construction at the NPS Atlantic Learning Center (ALC) has begun.

Two buildings are being rehabilitated (above left) to provide a wet/dry laboratory for visiting researchers and an educational classroom facility. These are the first two buildings facing the main quadrangle to undergo renovation.

A View from Above

This month we feature a product of a NPS Atlantic Learning Center program that is already underway. The NASA collaboration featured in the last issue is using new technology (see photo below) and training educators in the application of that technology. This work advances remote sensing applications for participants in the NASA training grant.

The ALC is currently establishing partnerships on projects that advance science within the park. Collaborative research is underway with several educational institutions, such as the University of Rhode Island, UMASS and Harvard.

Responses to the RFP for Program Partners and the RFQ for a Management Partner

A talented and diverse group of non-profit organizations proposed to become program partners and management partner for the first RFP/RFQ release in the initial phase of the Highlands Center's operation. The proposals were due on June 10, 2003. Proposals will be evaluated and selections will be completed by late summer.

Program Partner Lease Proposals:

- Barnstable County Commissioners – AmeriCorps~Cape Cod – Barnstable, MA
- Center for Coastal Studies – Provincetown, MA
- Fine Arts Work Center – Provincetown, MA
- Nature's Classroom – Charlton, MA
- Payomet Performing Arts Center – Truro, MA

Management Partner Lease Proposals:

- Highlands Center, Inc. – North Eastham, MA



A Payomet Storyteller entertains a captivated gallery of onlookers in the picnic grove at the Highlands Center.

Calendar of Free Summer Events at the Highlands Center at Cape Cod National Seashore

Payomet Storytelling –

Saturdays, July 5 and 19 and August 2, 16, and 30
At 11 am in the Picnic Grove

Payomet/Cape Cod Community College Shakespeare by the Shore -

Scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
July 30 at 7 pm in the Picnic Grove

(Payomet events co-sponsored by Highlands Center, Inc. and Cape Cod National Seashore)

Ranger Guided Highlands Center Walk -

Every Sunday in July and August
3/4 mile from 2:30-4:00 pm

Look for Upcoming Fall Events:

Truro Treasures Weekend –

Saturday and Sunday September 21 and 22
Event organized by Highlands Center, Inc. to be

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Water and Wastewater Utility Rehabilitation Plans Undergo Collaborative Design

Tackling some of the bigger challenges of designing a wastewater system, a group comprising NPS staff and engineering consultants from Earth Tech met with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to discuss preliminary plans. Conceptual design of the rehabilitation of the water, fire suppression and wastewater systems in the main quadrangle area of the Highlands Center is underway, and, if approved, the project will proceed to final design and construction.

The former occupant of the facility, the US Air Force, has informed the NPS of their request for the authority and funding needed to undertake a hazardous materials remediation contained within the current wastewater system. The remediation will allow utility improvements to proceed. Air Force officials are awaiting final authorization to clean the existing wastewater system components.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



National Park Service
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

This issue of The Highlands Record was created by AmeriCorps ~ Cape Cod member James Bergman.

AmeriCorps ~ Cape Cod Cleanup Day at Highlands Center



On a wintry day in April, Barnstable County's AmeriCorps ~ Cape Cod participated in their annual Highlands Center Cleanup Day to continue the process of rehabilitation and renewal that has been the mission of the National Park Service for several years.

The wind and snow did not deter twelve AmeriCorps members from the Wellfleet house who worked alongside National Park Service staff. They enthusiastically cleared out brush and patched the scratches and scrapes that come with spending a year on the windswept banks of the North Atlantic. The cleanup occurred just before the RFP/RFQ tour.